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THE FAITHFUL

As the kneeling Mussulman
  To Mecca turns to pray,
So my heart, dear, turns to thee
  And never turns away.

TO KNOW AND NOT TO KNOW

Not to know is Hate
  That in cruelty wreaks its fears.
To know is Love,
  And Pity is Love in tears.

THE DESERT

Stricken by the hand of Fate,
All things, motionless, await
The rain that never comes; no hope
In cloudless skies. Far westward slope
Low bastioned hills without a tree,
Dead-guarding some dread mystery.

The land lies far in weary miles,
Under the sun, across the sands.
An aromatic scent beguiles—
Of sage, sole plant in arid lands.
From desert floors, wind-swept, arise
Dust clouds like smoke unto the skies.

Alfred Hitch